



# UNITED STATES ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY

REGION 8 999 18<sup>TH</sup> STREET - SUITE 300 DENVER, CO 80202-2466 Phone 800-227-8917

SEP 2 7 2006

Ref: 8ENF-L

# CERTIFIED MAIL RETURN RECEIPT REQUESTED

Tom Simpson, Owner Simpson Honda 8450 Huffine Lane Bozeman, MT 59718

> Re: UNDERGROUND INJECTION CONTROL PROGRAM (UIC) Proposed Order and Penalty Complaint with Notice of Opportunity for Hearing

Dear Mr. Simpson:

The enclosed document is a Proposed Order and Penalty Complaint with Notice of Opportunity for Hearing ("complaint") for violations of the Safe Drinking Water Act ("SDWA"). Please carefully read the complaint soon, since it describes your rights and responsibilities in this matter as well as EPA's authority, the factual basis of the violations, and the background for the proposed penalties. Also enclosed is a copy of the Rules of Practice that govern these proceedings, the required Public Notice associated with this complaint and, in case you meet the criteria, an information sheet about the Small Business Regulatory Enforcement Fairness Act.

You are required to take action within 30 calendar days of your receipt of this complaint to avoid the possibility of having a default judgment entered against you that could impose the penalty amount proposed in the complaint.

Whether or not you request a hearing, we encourage an informal conference with EPA concerning the alleged violations in an effort to negotiate a settlement. You may wish to appear at an informal conference and/or be represented by legal counsel. To arrange for such a conference, you should contact Eduardo Quintana, Enforcement Attorney, Legal Enforcement Program, at the number provided below. Request for such a conference does not extend the 30 calendar day period during which a request for hearing must be submitted.

Public Notice of EPA's complaint and the opportunity to provide written comments on the complaint is being provided pursuant to section 1423 (c)(3)(B) of the SDWA, 42 U.S.C. § 300h-2(c)(3)(B). Should a hearing be held, any person who comments on the complaint has a right to participate in the hearing.

If the you have technical questions relating to this matter, the person most knowledgeable on my staff is Britta Campbell Copt, UIC Enforcement Team, Technical Enforcement Program, at 1-800-227-8917 ext. 6229 or (303) 312-6229. For all legal questions, the person most knowledgeable on my staff is Eduardo Quintana at 1-800-227-8917 ext. 6924 or (303) 312-6924. Ms. Copt and Mr. Quintana can also be reached at the following addresses:

Britta Campbell Copt (Mail Code 8ENF-UFO) U.S. EPA Region 8 999 18<sup>th</sup> Street, Suite 300 Denver, Colorado 80202-2466, or

Eduardo Quintana (Mail Code 8ENF-L) Enforcement Attorney U.S. EPA Region 8 999 18<sup>th</sup> Street, Suite 300 Denver, Colorado 80202-2466.

We urge your prompt attention to this matter.

Sincerely,

Carol Rushin

Assistant Regional Administrator Office of Enforcement, Compliance and Environmental Justice

#### Enclosures:

Proposed Order and Penalty Complaint with Notice of Opportunity for Hearing 40 C.F.R. Part 22 Public Notice U.S. EPA Small Business Resources Fact Sheet

# UNITED STATES ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY SEP 27 PM 1: 20 REGION 8

Docket No. SDWA-08-2006-0067 REGION THE

In the Matter of:		
Tom Simpson (d.b.a. Simpson Honda	a),	) COMPLAINT WITH NOTICE OF OPPORTUNITY FOR HEARING
Respondent.		)

#### INTRODUCTION

- 1. This civil administrative enforcement action is authorized by Congress in section 1423(c) of the Public Health Service Act, also known as the Safe Drinking Water Act (SDWA or the Act). 42 U.S.C. § 300h-2(c). The Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) regulations authorized by the SDWA are set out in part 144 of title 40 of the Code of Federal Regulations (C.F.R.), and violations of the statute, permits, or EPA regulations constitute violations of the Act. The rules for this proceeding are the "Consolidated Rules of Practice Governing the Administrative Assessment of Civil Penalties, Issuance of Compliance or Corrective Action Orders and the Revocation, Termination or Suspension of Permits ("Rules of Practice")," 40 C.F.R. part 22, a copy of which is enclosed.
- 2. The undersigned EPA official has been properly delegated the authority to issue this Complaint with Notice of Opportunity for Hearing (complaint).
- 3. EPA alleges that Tom Simpson, Respondent, doing business as Simpson Honda, has violated the Act and proposes the assessment of a civil penalty, as more fully explained below.

#### NOTICE OF OPPORTUNITY FOR A HEARING

4. Respondent has the right to a public hearing before an administrative law judge to disagree with any factual allegation made by EPA in the complaint, the appropriateness of the proposed penalty, or to present the grounds for any legal defense it may have.

5. To disagree with the complaint and assert its right to a hearing, Respondent must file a written answer (and one copy) with the Region 8 Hearing Clerk at the following address:

Region 8 Hearing Clerk 999 18<sup>th</sup> Street, Suite 300 (8RC) Denver, Colorado 80202

within 30 calendar days of receiving this complaint. The answer must clearly admit, deny or explain the factual allegations of the complaint, the grounds for any defense, the facts you may dispute, and your specific request for a public hearing. Please see section 22.15 of the Rules of Practice for a complete description of what must be in the answer. FAILURE TO FILE AN ANSWER AND REQUEST FOR HEARING WITHIN 30 CALENDAR DAYS MAY WAIVE RESPONDENT'S RIGHT TO DISAGREE WITH THE ALLEGATIONS OR PROPOSED PENALTY, AND RESULT IN A DEFAULT JUDGMENT AND ASSESSMENT OF THE PENALTY PROPOSED IN THE COMPLAINT, OR UP TO THE MAXIMUM AUTHORIZED BY THE ACT.

#### **QUICK RESOLUTION**

6. Respondent may resolve this proceeding at any time by paying the penalty amount proposed in the complaint. Such action to make payment need not contain any response to, or admission of, the allegations in the complaint. Such action to make payment constitutes a waiver of Respondent's right to contest the allegations and to appeal the final order. See section 22.18 of the Rules of Practice for a full explanation of the quick resolution process.

#### SETTLEMENT NEGOTIATIONS

7. EPA encourages discussing whether cases can be settled through informal settlement conferences. If Respondent wants to pursue the possibility of settling this matter, or has any other questions, contact Eduardo Quintana, Enforcement Attorney, at 1-800-227-8917; extension 6924 or 303-312-6924 or at the address identified in paragraph 31 herein. Please note that calling Mr. Quintana or requesting a settlement conference does NOT delay the running of the 30 day period for filing an answer and requesting a hearing.

#### **GENERAL ALLEGATIONS**

The following general allegations apply to all times relevant to this action, and to each count of this complaint:

8. Pursuant to section 1422 of the Act, 42 U.S.C. § 300h-1, and 40 C.F.R. part 147 subpart BB, section 147.1351, EPA administers the Underground Injection Control (UIC) program for Class I, III, IV, and V wells in the State of Montana. The effective date of the

program is June 25, 1984. The program requirements are located at 40 C.F.R. Parts 124, 144, 146, 147, and 148.

- 9. On May 15, 2005, EPA issued a Final Class V Underground Injection Permit MT50985-06598 (the Permit) to Tom Simpson, Respondent, owner of the Simpson Honda facility, located at 8450 Huffine Lane, Bozeman, Montana.
- 10. The permit sets limits for certain constituents that must be measured semi-annually. The permit states "any unauthorized injectate or any exceedance of a permit limit or requirement shall be considered non-compliance with this permit and may result in enforcement action."
- 11. The permit requires that Respondent collect a fluid sample after receipt of the Final Permit for the drain field system. The permit states that "the first analysis is due no later than three (3) months after the facility is in operation."
- 12. On July 11, 2005, Tri-Media Consultants, the consultant representing Respondent, notified EPA by telephone that results of a sampling event on June 29, 2005, show chloroform and total trihalomethanes at 0.16 mg/L.
- 13. On July 13, 2005, Tri-Media Consultants notified EPA by telephone that Simpson Honda was still injecting into the drain field.
- 14. On July 14, 2005, Tri-Media Consultants notified EPA in writing that the results of the June 29, 2005 sampling event showed chloroform and total trihalomethanes to be in exceedance of the permit limits.
  - 15. The permit limit for chloroform is 0.08 mg/L.
  - 16. The permit limit for total trihalomethanes is 0.08 mg/L.
- 17. On July 21, 2005, EPA notified Respondent in writing that Respondent was in non-compliance for exceeding the permit limits, and ordered Respondent to cease injecting until permit limits could be met.
- 18. Respondent is a "person" within the meaning of Section 1401(12) of the Act, 42 U.S.C. § 300f(12).
- 19. Respondent, at all times pertinent hereto, owned and operated a facility that includes a maintenance shop where motor vehicle repair occurs, located at 8450 Huffine Lane, Bozeman, Montana.

20. Beneath the disposal system are underground sources of drinking water (USDWs), including but not limited to the shallow Northern Rocky Mountains Intermontane Basin Aquifer System.

#### COUNT

21. Respondent was in violation of 40 C.F.R. §144.51(a) for exceeding the permit limits for chloroform and trihalomethanes. The duration of Respondent's violations for exceeding its permit limits was from June 29, 2005, to July 21, 2005. Failure to comply with the UIC regulations found at 40 C.F.R. §§144 and 146 are violations of the SDWA, 42 U.S.C. § 300h.

#### PROPOSED ORDER WITH ADMINISTRATIVE CIVIL PENALTY

- 23. The Act authorizes the assessment of a civil penalty of up to \$32,500 per day, for each violation of the Act, 42 U.S.C. § 1423(b). The Act requires EPA to take into account the following factors in assessing a civil penalty: the nature, circumstances, extent and gravity of the violation; any economic benefit or savings gained resulting from the violation; Respondent's history of such violations; Respondent's culpability for the violation; Respondent's good-faith efforts to comply with applicable requirements; the economic impact of the penalty on the Respondent; and other factors that justice may require.
- 24. In light of the statutory factors and the specific facts of this case, EPA proposes that a penalty of two thousand eight hundred dollars (\$2,800.00) be assessed against Respondent for the violations alleged above, as explained below:

#### Nature, Circumstances, Extent, and Gravity of Violations

Failing to prevent the movement of fluids containing any contaminant in exceedance of the permit limits into a USDW is serious because of the threats to the quality and health of the Aquifer and the potential threats to health of persons posed by Respondent's noncompliance.

#### **Prior Compliance History**

No adjustment made regarding this factor at this time.

#### Good-Faith Efforts to Comply

On July 21, 2005, EPA sent Respondent a Notice of Noncompliance. This letter informed Respondent that it had failed to prevent movement of fluid containing contaminants exceeding its permit limits into USDWs. This letter ordered Respondent to immediately cease injection into its Class V well. Respondent provided EPA with

updates on its efforts to return to compliance. Respondent returned to compliance on August 11, 2005.

#### Degree of Culpability

No adjustment made regarding this factor at this time.

#### Economic Benefit

Any economic benefit of exceeding the permit limits was negligible.

#### Ability to Pay

EPA did not reduce the proposed penalty due to this factor, but will consider any new information Respondent may present regarding Respondent's ability to pay the penalty proposed in this complaint.

#### Other Matters that Justice may Require

A downward adjustment was made to the proposed penalty due to Respondent's efforts in correcting its permit exceedances.

26. Respondent's payment of the penalty shall be made by money order or certified check made payable to "Treasurer, United States of America," including the name and docket number of this compliant, and mailed to the following address:

Mellon Bank Lockbox 360859 Pittsburgh, PA 15251-6859

A copy of said check shall be mailed to the following address:

Eduardo Quintana (8ENF-L) Enforcement Attorney U.S. EPA - Region 8 999 18th Street, Suite 300 Denver, Colorado 80202-2466.

27. As required by the Act, prior to the assessment of a civil penalty, EPA will provide public notice of the proposed penalty, and reasonable opportunity for the people to comment on the matter, and present evidence in the event a hearing is held. 42 U.S.C. § 1423(c)(3)(B).

- 28. The Administrative Law Judge is not bound by EPA's penalty policy or the penalty proposed by EPA, and may assess a penalty above the proposed amount, up to the \$32,500 per day per violation, as authorized in the statute.
- 29. This complaint does not constitute a waiver, suspension, or modification of the requirements of any applicable provision of the Act or the UIC regulations implementing the Act, which remain in full force and effect. Issuance of this complaint is not an election by the EPA to forego any civil or any criminal action otherwise authorized under the Act.

Issued this 27 day of Septenter, 2006.

Carol Rushin

Assistant Regional Administrator
Office of Enforcement, Compliance,
and Environmental Justice
U.S. EPA, Region 8
999 18th Street, Suite 300

Denver, CO 80202-2466

#### **CERTIFICATE OF SERVICE**

The undersigned hereby certifies that the original and one copy of the PROPOSED ORDER AND PENALTY COMPLAINT WITH NOTICE OF OPPORTUNITY FOR HEARING was hand-carried to the Regional Hearing Clerk, EPA Region 8, 999 18<sup>th</sup> Street, Suite 300, Denver, Colorado, and that a true copy of the same, with enclosures, was sent via certified mail to:

Tom Simpson Simpson Honda 8450 Huffine Lane Bozeman, MT 59718

9/27/06 Date

Judith McTernan

#### U.S. ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY PUBLIC NOTICE

# OPPORTUNITY FOR PUBLIC COMMENT ON COMPLAINT WITH NOTICE OF OPPORTUNITY FOR HEARING AGAINST TOM SIMPSON (D.B.A. SIMPSON HONDA) FOR FAILURE TO COMPLY WITH UNDERGROUND INJECTION CONTROL REQUIREMENTS

#### PURPOSE OF PUBLIC NOTICE

The purpose of this notice is to solicit written comments on the Complaint with Notice of Opportunity for Hearing (complaint), Docket #SDWA-08-2006-0067 that complainant Region 8 of the United States Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) has filed against respondent Tom Simpson (d.b.a. Simpson Honda). The complaint alleges violations of the Underground Injection Control (UIC) regulations and proposes the assessment of a monetary penalty in the amount of \$2,800.00. The complaint is issued under the UIC provisions of the Safe Drinking Water Act (SDWA) and the Act's implementing regulations. These regulations govern the injection of fluids that may endanger an underground source of drinking water (USDW). The addresses of complainant and respondent are listed here.

Respondent: Tom Simpson (d.b.a. Simpson Honda), 8450 Huffine Lane, Bozeman, Montana 59718.

<u>Complainant</u>: Assistant Regional Administrator, Office of Enforcement, Compliance & Environmental Justice, EPA Region 8, 999 18<sup>th</sup> Street, Suite 300, Denver, Colorado 80202.

EPA desires to receive written comments from any interested party having knowledge of the alleged violations or who can provide any information useful to ensure that any penalty assessed is appropriate.

#### **BACKGROUND**

Part C of the SDWA requires EPA to regulate underground injection of fluid through wells to assure that underground sources of drinking water (USDW) are not endangered. Section 1421 of the SDWA requires EPA to administer UIC programs in States or on Indian Lands that do not have approved State UIC programs. Regulation of the UIC Class V Program has not been delegated to the State of Montana; therefore, EPA administers the program in accordance with title 40 of the Code of Federal regulations (40 C.F.R.), Parts 124, 144, 146, 147, and 148.

The Class V disposal system which is the subject of this complaint are owned and operated by Tom Simpson (d.b.a. Simpson Honda) and are located at 8450 Huffine Lane, Bozeman, Montana. A Class V injection well, pursuant to 40 C.F.R. 144.6 and 146.5, is a shallow injection well that injects fluids into or above a USDW.

The complaint alleges that Tom Simpson (d.b.a. Simpson Honda) is in violation of UIC requirements, and is subject to appropriate penalties and fines for failing to prevent movement of fluids into a USDW that may cause a violation of a permit or otherwise adversely affect the health of persons.

#### **PUBLIC COMMENTS**

Written comments on the complaint are encouraged and will be accepted at the address listed below for a period of thirty (30) days after the publication of this notice, shown below and on the internet webpage listed below. Written comments submitted by the public as well as information submitted by Tom Simpson (d.b.a. Simpson Honda) will be available for public review, subject to the provisions of law restricting the disclosure of confidential information. Tom Simpson (d.b.a. Simpson Honda) may request a hearing. Any person submitting written comments will be notified of and has a right to participate in such a hearing. The complaint is available for review between 9:00 a.m. and 4:00 p.m. at the address listed below and on the internet at: <a href="www.epa.gov/Region8/compliance/rhc.html">www.epa.gov/Region8/compliance/rhc.html</a>. To view the complaint in person, please contact Britta Copt at (303) 312-6229.

Please submit written comments to:

Tina Artemis (8RC) Regional Hearing Clerk U.S. EPA, Region 8 999 18th Street, Suite 300 Denver, Colorado 80202-2466.

Any person interested in receiving their own copy of this or any future public notice of a UIC administrative action can call Britta Copt in the UIC program, EPA Region 8, at (303) 312-6229.

Elisabeth Evans

Elisabeth Evans, Director Technical Enforcement Program Office of Enforcement, Compliance, and Environmental Justice U.S. EPA, Region 8

999 18<sup>th</sup> Street, Suite 300 Denver, CO 80202-3466 shall also be sent to the Regional Administrator for review. The Regional Administrator shall notify the State, the applicant, and the SBA of any determination subsequently made, in accordance with §21.5, on any such state-

(i) If within 60 days after notice of such deficiencies has been provided, the State has not taken corrective efforts, and if the deficiencies significantly affect the conduct of the program, the Regional Administrator, after sufficient notice has been provided to the Regional Director of SBA, shall withdraw the approval of the State program.

(ii) Any State whose program is withdrawn and whose deficiencies have been corrected may later reapply as provided in § 21.12(a).

(g) Funds appropriated under section 106 of the Act may be utilized by a State agency authorized to receive such funds in conducting this program.

# §21.13 Effect of certification upon authority to enforce applicable standards.

The certification by EPA or a State for SBA Loan purposes in no way constitutes a determination by EPA or the State that the facilities certified (a) will be constructed within the time specified by an applicable standard or (b) will be constructed and installed in accordance with the plans and specifications submitted in the application, will be operated and maintained properly, or will be applied to process wastes which are the same as described in the application. The certification in no way constitutes a waiver by EPA or a State of its authority to take appropriate enforcement action against the owner or operator of such facilities for violations of an applicable standard.

PART 22—CONSOLIDATED RULES
OF PRACTICE GOVERNING THE
ADMINISTRATIVE ASSESSMENT OF
CIVIL PENALTIES AND THE REVOCATION/TERMINATION OR SUSPENSION OF PERMITS

#### Subpart A-General

Sec. 22.1 Scope of this part.

- 22.3 Definitions.
- 22.4 Powers and duties of the Environmental Appeals Board, Regional Judicial Officer and Presiding Officer; disqualffication, withdrawal, and reassignment.

22.5 Filing, service, and form of all filed documents; business confidentiality claims.

- 22.6 Filing and service of rulings, orders and decisions.
- 22.7 Computation and extension of time.
- 22.8 Ex parte discussion of proceeding.
- 22.9 Examination of documents filed.

#### Subpart B-Parties and Appearances

- 22.10 Appearances.
- 22.11 Intervention and non-party briefs.
- 22.12 Consolidation and severance.

#### Subpart C-Prehearing Procedures

- 22.13 Commencement of a proceeding.
- 22.14 Complaint.
- 22.15 Answer to the complaint.
- 22.16 Motions.
- 22.17 Default.
- 22.18 Quick resolution; settlement; alternative dispute resolution.
- 22.19 Prehearing information exchange; prehearing conference; other discovery.
- 22,20 Accelerated decision; decision to dismiss.

#### Subpart D-Hearing Procedures

- 22.21 Assignment of Presiding Officer:
- 22.22 Evidence.
- 22.23 Objections and offers of proof.
- 22.24 Burden of presentation; burden of persuasion; preponderance of the evidence standard.
- 22.25 Filing the transcript.
- 22.26 Proposed findings, conclusions, and order.

#### Subpart E—initial Decision and Motion to Reopen a Hearing

- 22.27 Initial decision.
- 22,28 Motion to reopen a hearing.

### Subpart F—Appeals and Administrative Review

- 22.29 Appeal from or review of interlocutory orders or rulings.
- 22.30 Appeal from or review of initial decision.

#### Subpart G—Final Order

- 22.31 Final order.
- 22.32 Motion to reconsider a final order.

# Environmental Protection Agency

#### Subpart H—Supplemental Rules

- 133 [Reserved]
- 334 Supplemental rules governing the administrative assessment of civil penalties under the Clean Air Act.
- 235 Supplemental rules governing the administrative assessment of civil penalties under the Federal Insecticide, Fungicide, and Rodenticide Act.
- 236 [Reserved]
- 237 Supplemental rules governing administrative proceedings under the Solid Waste Disposal Act.
- Supplemental rules of practice governing the administrative assessment of civil penalties under the Clean Water Act.
- ministrative assessment of civil penalties under section 109 of the Comprehensive Environmental Response, Compensation, and Liability Act of 1980, as amended.
- 22.40 [Reserved]
- 241 Supplemental rules governing the administrative assessment of civil penalties under Title II of the Toxic Substance Control Act, enacted as section 2 of the Asbestos Hazard Emergency Response Act (AHERA).
- 22.42 Supplemental rules governing the administrative assessment of civil penalties for violatione of compliance orders issued to owners or operators of public water systems under part B of the Safe Drinking Water Act.
- 2243 Supplemental rules governing the administrative assessment of civil penalties against a federal agency under the Safe Drinking Water Act.
- 22.44 Supplemental rules of practice governing the termination of permits under section 402(a) of the Clean Water Act or under section 3008(a)(3) of the Resource Conservation and Recovery Act.
- 27.45 Supplemental rules governing public notice and comment in proceedings under sections 309(g) and 311(b)(6)(B)(i1) of the Clean Water Act and section 1423(c) of the Safe Drinking Water Act.

  27.46-22.49 [Reserved]
- Subpart I—Administrative Proceedings Not Governed by Section 554 of the Ad-

ministrative Procedure Act

- 22,50 Scope of this subpart.
- 22.51 Presiding Officer.
- 22.52 Information exchange and discovery.

AUTHORITY: 7 U.S.C. 136(1); 15 U.S.C. 2615; 33 U.S.C. 1319, 1342, 1361, 1315 and 1416; 42 U.S.C. 500g-3(g), 6912, 6925, 6928, 6991e and 6992d; 42 U.S.C. 7413(d), 7524(e), 7545(d), 7547, 7601 and 7607(a), 9609, and 11045.

SOURCE: 64 FR 40176, July 23, 1999, unless otherwise noted.

#### Subpart A—General

#### \$22.1 Scope of this part.

- (a) These Consolidated Rules of Practice govern all administrative adjudicatory proceedings for:
- (1) The assessment of any administrative civil penalty under section 14(a) of the Federal Insecticide, Fungicide, and Rodenticide Act as amended (7 U.S.C. 1361(a));
- (2) The assessment of any administrative civil penalty under sections 113(d), 205(c), 211(d) and 213(d) of the Clean Air Act, as amended (42 U.S.C. 7413(d), 7524(c), 7545(d) and 7547(d));
- (3) The assessment of any administrative civil penalty or for the revocation or suspension of any permit under section 105(a) and (f) of the Marine Protection, Research, and Sanctuaries Act as amended (33 U.S.C. 1415(a) and (f));
- (4) The issuance of a compliance order or the issuance of a corrective action order, the termination of a permit pursuant to section 3008(a)(3), the suspension or revocation of authority to operate pursuant to section 3005(e), or the assessment of any civil penalty under sections 3008, 9006, and 11005 of the Solid Waste Disposal Act, as amended (42 U.S.C. 6925(d), 6925(e), 6928, and 6992d)), except as provided in part 24 of this chapter;
- (5) The assessment of any administrative civil penalty under sections 16(a) and 207 of the Toxic Substances Control Act (15 U.S.C. 2615(a) and 2647);
- (6) The assessment of any Class Il penalty under sections 309(g) and 311(b)(6), or termination of any permit issued pursuant to section 402(a) of the Clean Water Act, as amended (33 U.S.C. 1319(g), 1321(b)(6), and 1342(a));
- (7) The assessment of any administrative civil penalty under section 100 of the Comprehensive Environmental Response, Compensation, and Liability Act of 1980, as amended (42 U.S.C. 9609)
- (8) The assessment of any administrative civil penalty under section 320 of the Emergency Planning and Community Right-To-Know Act of 1980 ("EPCRA") (42 U.S.C. 11045);
- (9) The assessment of any adminis trative civil penalty under section

1ST PAGE ONLY

## **U. S. EPA Small Business Resources**

If you own a small business, the United States Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) offers a variety of compliance assistance and tools to assist you in complying with federal and state environmental laws. These resources can help you understand your environmental obligations, improve compliance and find cost-effective ways to comply through the use of pollution prevention and other innovative technologies.

# Hotlines, Helplines and Clearinghouses

EPA sponsors approximately 89 free hotlines and clearing-houses that provide convenient assistance regarding environmental requirements.

The National Environmental Compliance Assistance Clearinghouse provides quick access to compliance assistance tools, contacts, and planned activities from the U.S. EPA, states, and other compliance assistance providers: http://www.epa.gov/clearinghouse

Pollution Prevention Clearinghouse http://www.epa.gov/opptintr/library/ppicindex.htm

EPA's Small Business Ombudsman Hotline can provide a list of all the hot lines and assist in determining the hotline best meeting your needs: (800) 368-5888

**Emergency Planning and Community Right-To-Know Act** (800) 424-9346

National Response Center (to report oil and hazardous substance spills) (800) 424-8802

Toxics Substances and Asbestos Information (202) 554-1404

**Safe Drinking Water** (800) 426-4791

Stratospheric Ozone and Refrigerants Information (800) 296-1996

Clean Air Technology Center (919) 541-0800

Wetlands Helpline (800) 832-7828

#### **EPA Websites**

EPA has several Internet sites that provide useful compliance assistance information and materials for small businesses. If you don't have access to the Internet at your business, many public libraries provide access to the Internet at minimal or no cost.

EPA's Home Page http://www.epa.gov

Small Business Assistance Program http://www.epa.gov/ttn/sbap

Office of Enforcement and Compliance Assurance http://www.epa.gov/compliance

Compliance Assistance Home Page http://www.epa.gov/compliance/assistance

Office of Regulatory Enforcement http://www.epa.gov/compliance/civil/index.html

Office of Site Remediation Enforcement http://www.epa.gov/compliance/cleanup

Innovative Programs for Environmental Performance http://www.epa.gov/partners

Small Business Ombudsman www.sba.gov/ombudsman